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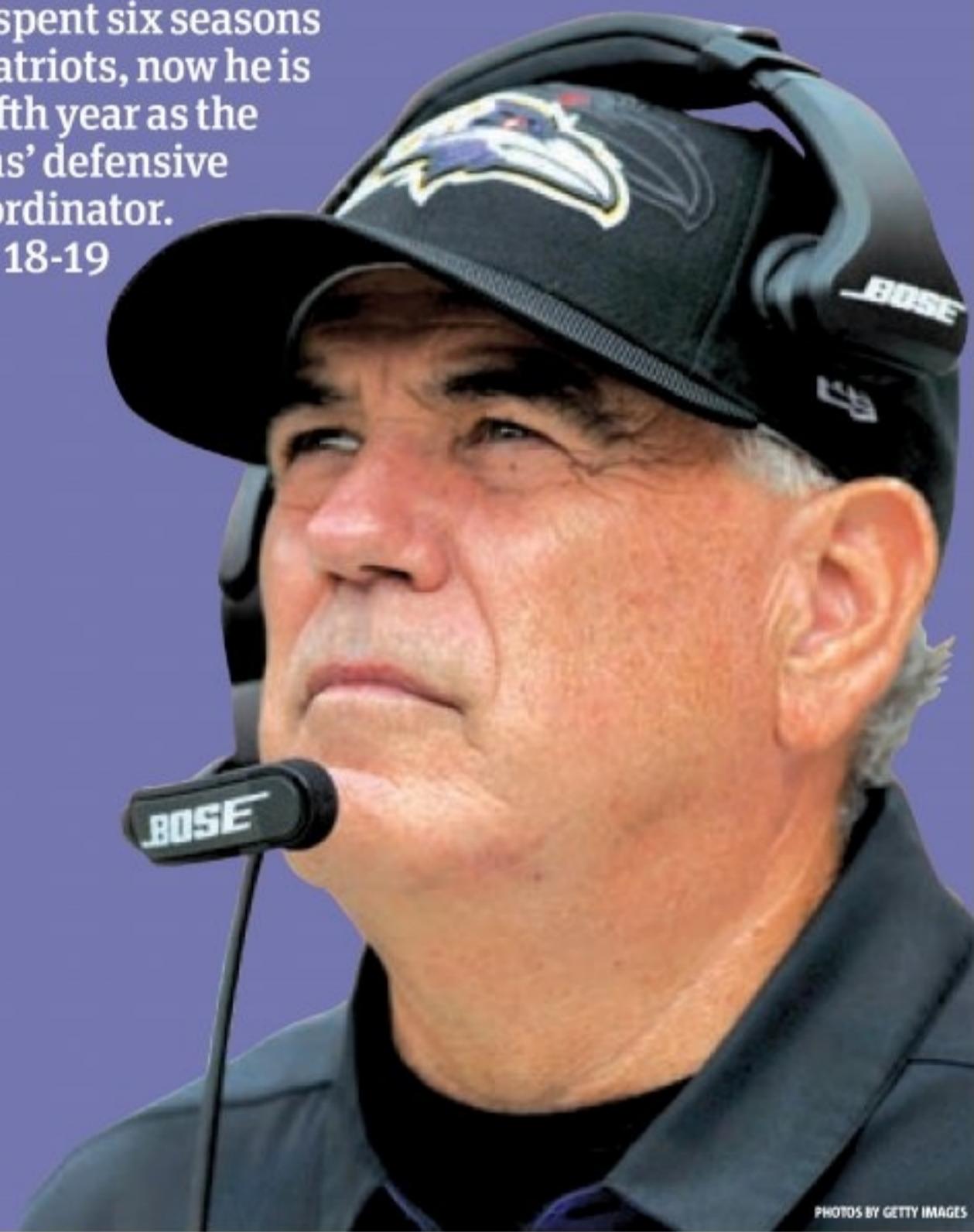
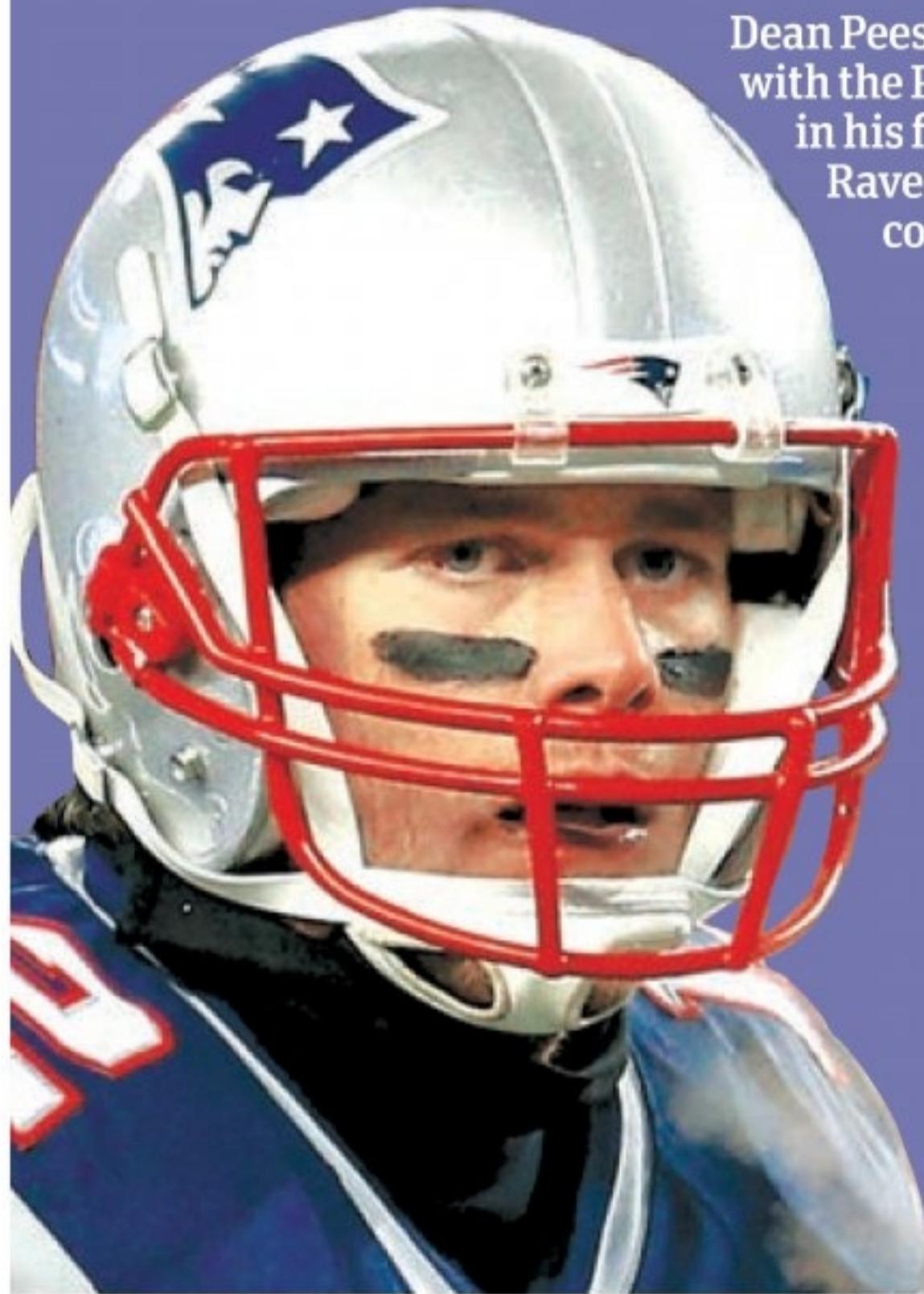
How to write that winning college essay. 16

## HOLIDAY HACK

Wear your tree skirt. 12

# FAMILIAR FOE

Dean Pees spent six seasons with the Patriots, now he is in his fifth year as the Ravens' defensive coordinator.  
18-19



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1. What was Tiffany Trump recently spotted touring in the Boston area?
2. What is the Patriots regular-season record against the Ravens?
3. What HBO show is "Office Christmas Party" star T.J. Miller currently on?

## 3 things you need to know

### TRUMP DERIDES REPORTS RUSSIA HELPED HIM IN US ELECTION

**1** Donald Trump rejected as "ridiculous" reported U.S. intelligence findings that Russia intervened in the presidential election on his behalf through targeted hacking, according to an interview broadcast on Sunday. "I think it's ridiculous. I think it's just another excuse. I don't believe it,"



Trump said in the interview with "Fox News Sunday." The Republican president-elect's comments casting doubt on reported U.S. intelligence findings pits him against some leading foreign policy voices in the Senate from his own party who on Sunday expressed alarm about election meddling by Moscow and called for a bipartisan investigation. Trump blamed Democrats for putting out the media reports and said he did not believe they came from the Central Intelligence Agency. REUTERS

### ABOUT 40 CARS IN PILEUP ON SNOWY HIGHWAY NEAR DETROIT

**2** A pileup involving about 40 cars in snowy conditions forced the temporary closure of part of Interstate 75 northwest of Detroit on Saturday and several motorists were injured, a spokesman for state police said. Michigan State Police posted photographs on Twitter of cars with damage to their bumpers and several vehicles with their trunks popped open, apparently after colliding with each other. No one was killed in the collision less than 40 miles northwest of Detroit, but some people were transported to area hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening, according to the tweets from the Metro Detroit section of Michigan State Police. REUTERS

### N. KOREA'S KIM GUIDES SPECIAL OPERATIONS DRILL TARGETING SOUTH

**3** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un guided a special operations drill targeting the South, the North's media reported on Sunday, as rival South Korea remained on alert for any attempt by the North to take advantage of political turmoil in the South. The North's KCNA state news agency report did not say when North Korean forces conducted the combat exercise, nor did it mention the South Korean parliament's vote on Friday to impeach its president, Park Geun-hye. Pictures in a Sunday report on the exercise in the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed what appeared to be a mock-up of South Korea's presidential Blue House as a target. Park will remain in the Blue House, though her powers have been suspended and assumed by the South's prime minister while the Constitutional Court weighs parliament's impeachment vote. REUTERS



GETTY IMAGES

## WINTRY WEEK AHEAD

### Bolaris' Weather Watch



**JOHN BOLARIS**  
@weathersavior

Old Person Winter (politically incorrect to say Old Man Winter) was jabbing away last night with some areas along the interior sections of the northeast corridor picking up a few slushy inches of snow.

The snow line last night basically extended across Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, through northwest New Jersey on into the Lower Hudson Valley and central Connecticut and cutting through the hills north

and west of Boston. Expect Boston to pick up some snow before changing to rain this morning.

The storm system responsible for the wintry mix of snow and rain will be moving away today as skies across the Northeast will clear during the afternoon hours.

We catch a nice break for the midweek as temperatures will hang mainly in the 40s.

However, hang on to your ski beanie, as the most frigid outbreak since last mid-February will invade the entire region on Thursday and Friday. You will be walking with an extra skip in your step as your eyes tear and your teeth chat-

ter. The mercury will hover in the mid-to-upper 20s. Combined with the wind chill factor, the temperature will feel more like the single digits by day and below zero at night.

### The weekend

The arctic air mass will begin to change. At the same time, a milder flow aloft, combined with a possible storm system, could mean a wintry bout of snow, sleet and freezing rain, before changing to rain. Mixed signals on just how significant, and timing on the event. Right now, I would lean toward saying a wintry mix is more likely on Saturday, but I'm sure your local TV

### Boston

**Today:** Morning sleet and rain, High 43

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy, 40

**Wednesday:** Dry and chilly, High 38

**Thursday:** Arctic blast, windy, High 25

**Friday:** Arctic blast, windy, High 21

**Saturday:** Wintry mix, High 36

**Sunday:** Morning rain, High 40

meteorologist will keep you updated — after numerous teases.



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COURTESY OF LYFT

## Lyft claims riders added \$33M to local economy in past year

Lyft released its annual economics report, detailing how it impacted Boston businesses.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT  
@kristindakota  
letters@metro.us

There's little doubt that ride-hailing companies are a big hit in large cities by making commuting more convenient for residents. One such company, Lyft, suggests that it is also boosting the local economy, and not only by employing drivers.

Lyft passengers contributed \$33.5 million in new spending to Boston's economy this past year, according to the company's annual economic impact report. Nationwide, Lyft reported \$750 million in such spending.

The numbers don't include the value of Lyft rides, said Peter Gigante, head of policy research at Lyft. They're indicative of just how much more riders spent by being able to take Lyfts to restaurants and shops.

"We asked passengers to think about their spending on shopping and entertainment before they had access to Lyft and

then afterwards," Gigante said. "[We looked at] people spending more and if so by what amount, and then calculated that by ride activity across the Boston metro region."

Businesses basically became more easily accessible to more people, he said. More than 77 percent of passengers reported that Lyft provides access to more areas, and about 73 percent said they go out more often, or stay out longer, thanks to Lyft's services, according to the report.

Fifty-five percent of Lyft passengers who responded to the company's survey said that they spent more at local businesses this past year thanks to the ride-hailing service. And 41 percent of Lyft rides began in areas that are underserved by other modes of transportation.

"It's really indicative of the change in mind-set of what people are willing to do," Gigante said.

For example, people may opt to stay home on a rainy night if they would have to walk somewhere or wait outside for a while, trying to catch a bus, he said.

"If I know I can get myself there and back when I want to, I'm more likely to go out and thus spend

*"If I know I can get myself there and back when I want to, I'm more likely to go out and thus spend money."*

Gigante

money," Gigante said.

Lyft drivers also have an effect on the economy as well. Gigante noted that many drivers moonlight at Lyft while working another job.

"It's important income, but it's supplemental, so it gives them a lot of freedom," he said.

Lyft also helps people save time, the company maintains. Passengers saved \$25 million in travel time by using Lyft instead of public transportation, according to the company's report.

"People have always asked us, 'What kind of impact are you having on my city?'" Gigante said. "We've always suspected that with greater confidence in transportation, people's behaviors shift. I think ultimately, providing more freedom and mobility means more activity to [business] areas."

Dell recommends Windows 10 Pro.



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# State's new marijuana law should take effect this week

Massachusetts is waiting to exhale.



KIMBERLY AQUILINA  
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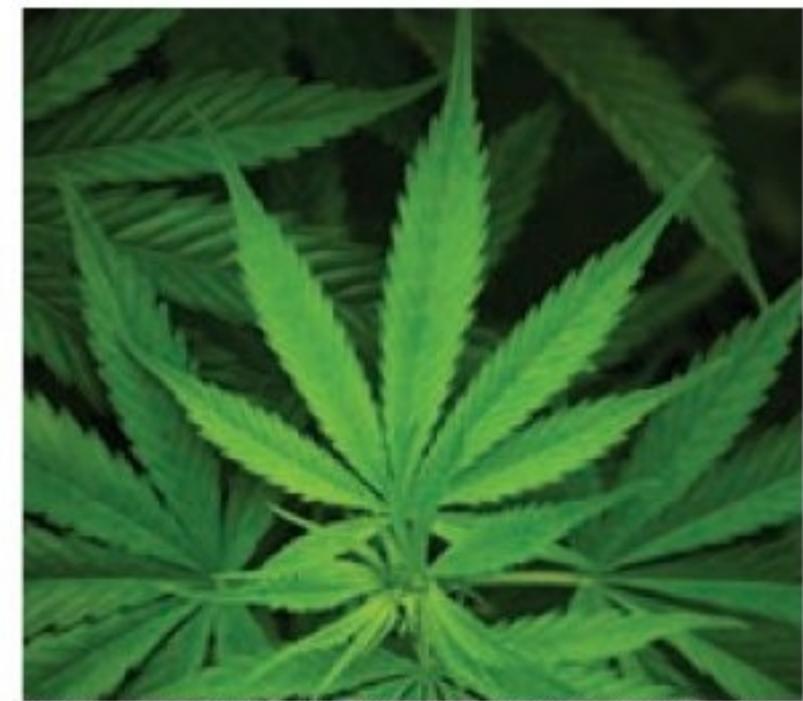
While the rest of the country debates how the Electoral College should vote next week, Massachusetts might have made a solid decision on the Nov. 8 ballot Question 4, the Massachusetts Marijuana Legalization Initiative. Looks like you'll be able to smoke 'em if ya got 'em by this weekend.

The office of Secretary of State William Galvin plans to deliver the official results to the Governor's Council for certification on Wednesday, the Associated Press reported.

As long as the council certifies the results as expected, the law will take effect the next day as planned.

Galvin's office previously said the officially might not be ready in time for the Dec. 15 certification, the Boston Globe reported.

"All those tokers can



"All those tokers can hold their breath a little longer, but they'll be able to exhale" a little earlier than politicians thought. GOOGLE COMMONS

hold their breath a little longer, but they'll be able to exhale" by early 2017, Galvin joked, according to the Globe.

Question 4 did not debate whether or not pot should be legal. Medical marijuana is allowed in Massachusetts already. The new law will allow for anyone over the age of 21 to possess a limited amount of pot and grow up to a dozen plants per household for recreational purposes.

Weed will be regu-

lated similarly to alcohol — which means it will be taxed. The Department of Public Health scheduled public hearings for the first week of January to update regulations with respect to the new law.

It will still be illegal to buy or sell marijuana and to use it in a public place. And the law on possessing marijuana inside a motor vehicle is similar to that on alcohol. Containers of weed must be kept in the trunk or glove compartment.

## BRIEF

### Donate to Metro's Toy Drive

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help others and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I

hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro.us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

It's good to receive a gift. It's better to give one. METRO

**Former Red Sox pitcher dons new uniform: Port Authority Police**  
Anthony Varvaro, 32, who spent five seasons with three teams before being sidelined by an injury

in 2015, on Friday became one of 80 cadets to be graduated from the Port Authority Police Academy in New York.

The career change doesn't come completely out of left field.

Before he played for the Seattle Mariners, Atlanta Braves and the Boston Red Sox, Varvaro had earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from St. John's University in Queens. He had a career 3.23 earned run average and recorded 150 strikeouts in 183 innings.

"I kind of felt like my body was breaking down a bit. I felt like my career may have been coming to an end," he told the school newspaper on Dec. 2. "I probably could have played a little longer, but that's when an opportunity with the Port Authority Police Department arrived."

A ceremony for the graduates was held Friday morning in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Port Authority police officers patrol the city's airports, bridges, tunnels and transit systems.

NIKKI M. MASCALLI

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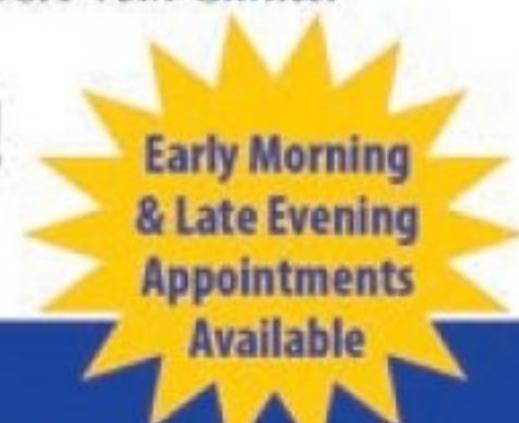


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# Italy hurries to form a new government, banking crisis looms

Elections could be called as soon as parliament finishes rewriting the electoral law.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella asked Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni on Sunday to try to form a new government, giving him a mandate to lead Italy out of a political crisis caused by the resignation of Matteo Renzi.

Gentiloni, a former journalist and Renzi loyalist, is set to be Italy's fifth prime minister in as many years and the fourth in a row to take office without winning a national election.

The soft-spoken 62-year-old immediately began consultations to form a government that

will have to write a new electoral law and manage Italy's fragile banks.

Chief among his duties will be dealing quickly with Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the country's third-largest lender, which may need state intervention to avoid collapse.

"I am aware of the urgent need to give Italy a government with full powers, to reassure our fellow citizens, to confront our international, economic and social priorities," he said.

Italy's social and political divisions were laid bare in campaigning for a Dec. 4 referendum on constitutional reform that was roundly rejected, prompting Renzi to resign.

All major parties have called for elections as soon as possible, but re-

placing the current electoral law, which applies only to the lower house and could be declared invalid in January by the Constitutional Court, is also likely to dictate the timetable.

Gentiloni said he would "facilitate, if possible, the parliamentary forces' task of quickly defining new electoral rules".

"There are just two windows of opportunity for elections, either it's a snap election in Q2 2017 or it's the natural end of the legislature in 2018," said Francesco Galietti of risk consultancy Policy Sonar.

He said several factors could influence the election date, including dealing with the banking crisis, the summit of the G7 nations scheduled in Sicily in May, and



President of Italy Sergio Mattarella delivers a speech during a press conference after his several meeting with political parties in Rome, this past Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

the need to name chiefs for a raft of state-owned companies as tenures run out.

Commentators said Gentiloni could present his list of proposed cabinet members to the

head of state as early as Monday, even waiting until after European markets opened.

"The important thing is that the markets already know that with Gentiloni there will be

no radical change," said Maurizio Caprara, commentator for Italy's Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Gentiloni said his government would move "within the same framework" as the outgoing government but Renzi's Democratic Party (PD) is itself severely divided between backers of the former prime minister, such as Gentiloni, and opponents.

Once his cabinet is sworn in by the president, the government will then face votes of confidence in both houses of parliament. The ruling coalition, headed by the PD, has a majority in both so Gentiloni could win the votes in time to attend a European Union meeting on Thursday as prime minister. REUTERS

## Source: Rick Perry a leading candidate for energy post

Rick Perry, who proposed eliminating the U.S. Energy Department during his unsuccessful bid for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination, has emerged as a leading

candidate to head the agency under President-elect Donald Trump, a transition official said on Sunday.

Democratic U.S. Sens. Heidi Heitkamp of North

Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia also are in the running for the job as Trump continues to fill key positions in his administration ahead of taking office. REUTERS



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## Drake gives DJ Khaled some major keys

Less than two months ago, DJ Khaled became a dad. You may have seen it all go down on his Snapchat. The 41-year-old hitmaker captured most of his girlfriend's labor and delivery on the social media platform because, well ... that's just how DJ Khaled is. And the proud papa isn't the only one who thinks new life is a reason to do it big.

His friend and collaborator, Drake, sent Khaled and baby Asahd a gift that they certainly won't be returning. The "Hotline Bling" rapper had a set of matching diamond keys engraved with Khaled and Asahd's



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names.

Khaled is known for being a little sappy. So it goes without saying that he was deeply touched by Drakes sentimental gift. He poured out his thanks in an Instagram video on Friday.

## Kylie Jenner dresses up as Christina Aguilera again for singer's birthday party

Kylie Jenner won Halloween this year when she dressed up as Christina Aguilera from her iconic "Dirrty" music video. Jenner donned red and black chaps and a platinum blonde wig with dark streaks to complete the look. Aguilera appreciated the nod and even gave Jenner a shoutout on Instagram. But the singer was apparently so impressed that she wanted to see the getup in person.

At Aguilera's

request, the 19-year-old lip queen was in attendance for an early celebration of the singer's 36th birthday on Saturday. She once again dressed as the pop icon, this time in yellow. The duo snapped several pictures together and even shared a racy kiss.



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## the word

SESALI BOWEN  
sesali.bowen@metro.us

It's been 13 days since Kanye West was released from UCLA Medical Center where he was being treated for dehydration, sleep deprivation and exhaustion.

Unlike his wife, Kim Kardashian, who is still maintaining a low profile after her robbery, Kanye has been pretty active and even out in public following his hospitalization. Here's a rundown of what he's been up to:

— Making music.

## Kanye West goes blond after release from the hospital



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Sources have told TMZ that now that Kanye is stabilized on medication, he's feeling more creative than ever and is laying tracks in his Bel-Air mansion.

— Dyeing his hair. In his first public appearance since being released, Kanye attended an art installation at the Pacific Design Center on Friday sporting a new blond look. They have more fun, after all.

— Home renovations. TMZ says that with the extra time on his hands, Kanye has been more involved in the updates to the couple's Hidden Hills mansion.

— Riding his bike. E! News reports that Kanye was spotted riding his bike with some friends. He even wore a helmet.

It looks like Yeezy is already bouncing back "Stronger" than ever.

## Janice Dickinson ties the knot



sexually assaulted her in 1982.

But none of that could put a damper on her big day. She told ET on Saturday that she was "so delighted, ecstatic, over the moon, out of body, a runaway bride." The nuptials were captured by ET's cameras. Dickinson has already been married three times and, at 61, she's proving that it's never too late to find love. The fact that her hubby is a shrink can't hurt either.

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# T.J. Miller: You can still party after 30

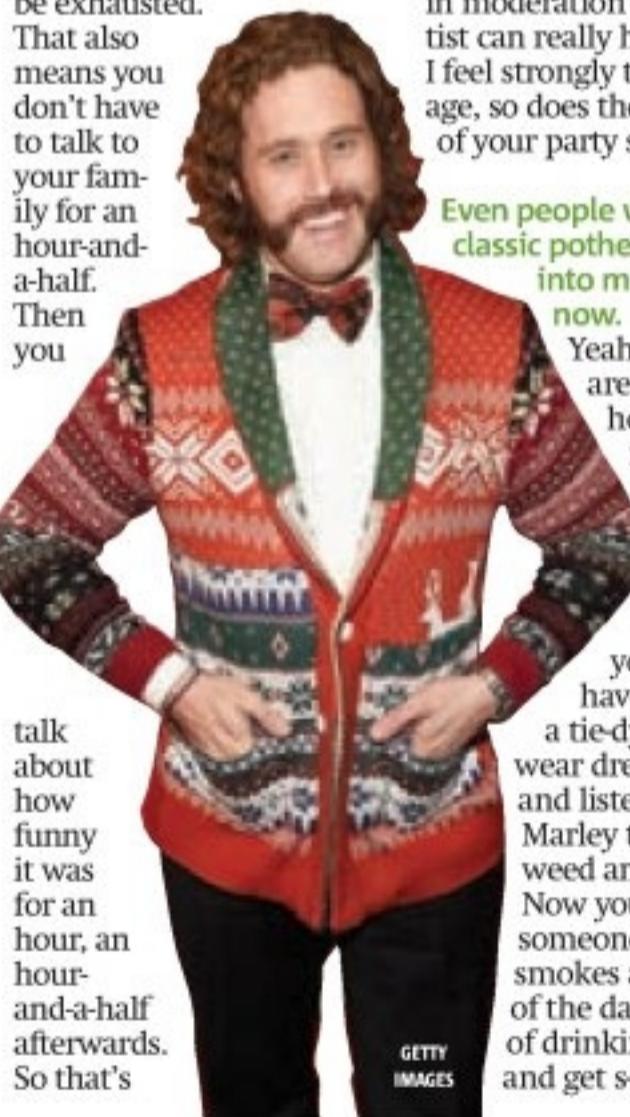
The actor and comic says "Office Christmas Party" is perfect for the holidays this year.

 MATT PRIGGE  
@mattprigge  
matt.prigge@metro.us

T.J. Miller has an idea: You should go see "Office Christmas Party." Obviously he does; he's in it. But the "Silicon Valley" star has another reason to get butts in seats: It's a comedy. And right now, with all that's going on, we need distractions. In the movie, Miller plays the boss of a struggling branch of an internet server company. Things are so gloomy that the annual holiday shindig gets well out of hand, with assistance from Jason Bateman, Kate McKinnon and a hard-partying Courtney B. Vance.

I've noticed a lot of people saying they're really in the mood for comedies now. They want to take their mind off what's going in the world.

One of the things we can do right now is take the holidays off and settle into what this is. And what this is is a time to laugh. It's a time to laugh and go together to see a comedy. And this is a laugh-a-minute — well, laugh-a-minute-and-a-half comedy. You don't want people to be exhausted. That also means you don't have to talk to your family for an hour-and-a-half. Then you



two-and-a-half to three hours of stress-free time. That's what we're offering.

**As you get older, starting with turning 30, it's hard to party like you used to.** You're wrong. You can ask my wife. You can do it. You just gotta pick and choose your battles. But you can f—in' party. You can get down. The older you get, the better you are at partying. It's like when people say, "Oh, I get so paranoid when I smoke weed, so I don't smoke anymore." I say, "You just haven't practiced." You gotta practice. We all practiced drinking. We all had a case of beer and said, "This is disgusting." We all threw up so many times. But we kept at it, right? That's what people got to do with marijuana: Keep practicing and you'll get better at it. Learn your balance.

**Maybe getting high rather than drinking might be the secret.** Yeah, I think so. Alcohol tends to be a little harder on the body as you get older. Marijuana is big now, especially with vaporizing, and it becoming legal in so many places — well, the places that need money and are going to use it correctly. I think marijuana becomes the jam the older you get. And I think nitrous oxide in moderation at the dentist can really help as well. I feel strongly that as you age, so does the wisdom of your party skill set.

**Even people who aren't classic potheads are into marijuana now.**

Yeah, people aren't potheads anymore. Now there's just marijuana users. But you don't have to wear a tie-dye T-shirt, wear dreadlocks and listen to Bob Marley to smoke weed anymore. Now you can be someone who smokes at the start of the day instead of drinking coffee, and get s— done.



Kate McKinnon and T.J. Miller are two of the revelers raging hard in "Office Christmas Party," now in theaters. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

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12 STYLE

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[yatinybrooklyn](http://yatinybrooklyn)  
[kate.mooney@metro.us](mailto:kate.mooney@metro.us)

If you're stressing over what to wear to your next holiday party, the winning outfit might be right under your ... Christmas tree.

You may not have noticed — because who pays any attention to the base of a tree that's obscured by pine needles and presents? — but a tree skirt, that bunched up pile of fabric, is an actual skirt that you can wear around your waist. This holiday season,

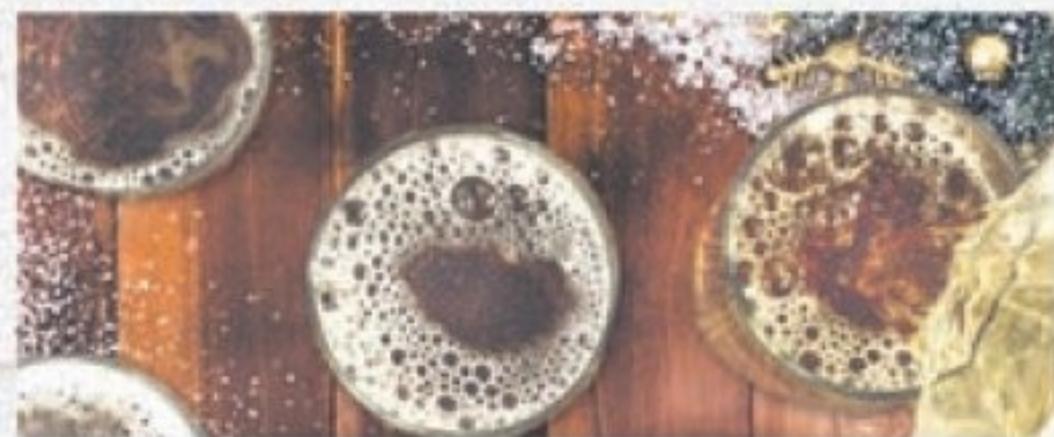


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folks are getting hip to the festive, stylin' potential of the traditional Yuletide adornment, yanking the skirts out from under the tree and wrapping them around themselves instead. (Really embodying the holiday spirit.) And they're getting creative: Beyond skirts, they're wearing

them as ponchos, and even tying them over their dogs' shoulders as mini-capes.

We're in favor of this repurposing, because what real function does a Christmas tree skirt serve under the tree, anyway? Brief history: Legend has it that once upon a time in Germany,

folks used to decorate their Christmas trees with actual candles (no idea how anyone survived that), and so a tree skirt was put in place to collect the dripping wax and aid in cleanup.

Nowadays, they're for the sake of decoration and to conceal the unsightly — gasp! — tree stand from view. But, our thinking is, if the fabric is nice enough to embellish the base of your Christmas tree, why disguise it underneath a dying pine, where it runs the risk of being spoiled by dirty tree water, or worse, pissed on by the family pet? Why not do your grandma, or your aunt or your mama proud and honor the family holiday heirloom by wearing it out in the world so others might marvel at her deft needlepoint and design?

Also: When it comes to putting together a holiday lewk — who has the time? We say, f—k tradition; you need that skirt much more than your tree does.

Take a look at a few of the creative ways people — and even a few canines — are rockin' the tree skirt this season.



© TYLERCOATES



Sad13 GETTY IMAGES

On 'Slugger,' Sad13 makes liberating alt-pop anthems for all.

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO  
@indiecalp  
letters@metro.us

Sadie Dupuis, lead singer for guitar rockers Speedy Ortiz, knew she wanted to make a pop record.

Just before recording "Slugger," her debut solo effort as Sad13, Dupuis did a fundraising tour with Speedy Ortiz for the Girls Rock Camp Foundation, where she donated profits to the organization and met the some of the campers. "I was thinking of these kids and also myself as a kid," she says. "[This record's] a response to some of the stuff I listened to when I was 13."

The self-produced, 11-track album, which she says was inspired by alt-pop like Blood Orange and Solange, dives into empowering themes like consent, finding one's identity and female friendship. It's a sweet, glittery collection of songs full of witty lyrics and video game-esque synths.

We chat with Dupuis about switching from guitars to synths, self-producing the record and

learning more about herself through "Slugger."

**Musically, what was it like having keyboards and synths as your instrument of choice?**

I've been playing guitar as my primary instrument in a live setting for like 15 years at this point. So it's been fun to have less of a comfort zone on your instrument. I feel like on guitar, I have limitations because I don't want to do things that I perceive as easy or obvious even if they fit the song well whereas I don't have those hang-ups with the synth or keyboard.

**How did "Get a Yes" come together?**  
Sometimes, songs write themselves pretty quickly. That was one of those. It kind of has this weird, silly feeling to it. I just tried to make it sound like a really fun song, especially because I wanted to do a song that was a positive celebration of affirmative consent so I wanted to make it sound as pop as possible.

**Was it difficult to self-produce the album?**

I think it's not as difficult as one might imagine. I felt that it was important to give myself that kind of credit for the record just so that more people can see that it's not something that has to be daunting or not something that you have to go into the studio and save up the money to do. This kind of record, I knew I could make at home. I did it in like two weeks. It wasn't that hard.

Through writing and recording "Slugger," did you come to any new revelations about relationships and love for yourself? I think sometimes you're channeling some of your own feelings that maybe are a bit subliminal. At least I am in my own lyrical process. I made this record in January, but coming back to it now — I don't know if I totally understood everything I was writing at the time, but sometimes it makes more sense in hindsight.

What message do you hope listeners will receive from the album? The thing that is most exciting to me is that it's 99-percent home recorded. If anybody felt inspired to record themselves after hearing this record, I think that would be the coolest thing for me.

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# jobs & education



Maven Jo Malone says her weekly advice column is an opportunity to "give back" to the community. ALL IMAGES PROVIDED

With her new empire, Jo Malone pays it forward.

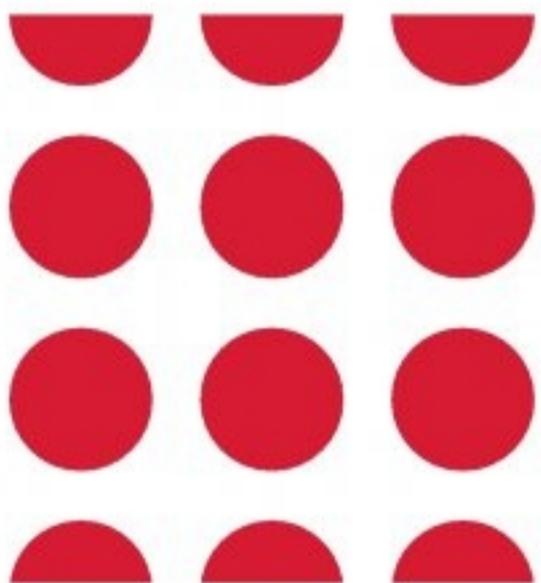


RACHEL RACZKA  
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Jo Malone is like a phoenix reborn. Following time away from being a decades-long fixture of the fragrance industry, the scent savant has now launched Jo Loves, a new line of luxury candles and body products in clean, fresh and bright elixirs inspired by her travels and memories.

Malone also pens a weekly Monday column (aptly named Ask Jo Malone) for U.K.'s Evening Standard, where she and her experts and colleagues hand out business advice to budding (and experienced) entrepreneurs. Naturally, when we got Malone to chat for a few minutes, we couldn't help but ask her for some advice of our own.

**At what point do you think a hobby goes from being a side project to a career?**



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## HOW TO GET AHEAD

Some jobs are hobbies, and some are careers and businesses. You need to figure out which one yours is. I think there's nothing wrong with a hobby. I built a business from a kitchen sink with four plastic jugs and turned it into a global brand. The minute it becomes your main source of income with expenses and overhead, you need to start thinking of it as something other than a hobby. As a hobby, it can be Monday, Wednesday and Friday — but a business is all the time.

**What do you think is the value of having a brand that uses your own name and identity? Are there any drawbacks?**

It's an asset and a liability at the same time. I think there are huge aspects of your personality are involved [when a brand is named after you], and for a brand, it's important to have that integrity and authenticity. It's reliability people can identify with.

**Going into Jo Loves and this cluttered fragrance industry, how did you**

want to set yourself apart? What makes Jo Loves unique and different?

I didn't set out to be different. I wanted to stay true to myself and the artist that I am. I see life differently, so my creativity becomes reality in a different way. I'm much more courageous. With age, you change and evolve, and I think Jo Loves was something that reflects Jo, the person today, not who I was 20 years ago.

**What's your creative process usually like?**

I create every single day; it's part of my everyday life. I'll look at something and the elements around me — like Pomelo was a walk on a Turks and Caicos beach, the white

sand and the glasses of fizzy water and sting rays following me in the water. I create [fragrance] notes the way you would with music. I don't have an office or a desk. I sit wherever creativity is.

**How do you keep all of these ideas organized?**



I memorize, and I have a notebook. I put everything in my notebook — thick pen if it's urgent, thin pen if it's carrying into the next day. A lot of my memories are locked in my head. I look at it like a library with lots of bottles I can pull memories and notes from.

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# 4 tips for writing a college essay that shines

Don't be afraid to get a little personal on your application.

LAKSHMI GANDHI  
@MetroBOS  
letters@metro.us

There's a reason Janine Robinson named her site devoted to guiding students through the college essay application process Essay Hell.

"It's the most dreaded piece of writing people do in their lifetimes," says Robinson, a former

journalist and English teacher who now coaches students. "There's so much riding on it, but no one has taught students how to write this kind of essay."

We asked Robinson for her advice on creating an essay that shines.

## Get a little personal

It may surprise people, but Robinson says the best students often write the worst college essays. "Students might not understand that these

essays are supposed to be personal, and not the formal essays they are used to," Robinson explains. "You should ditch that five-paragraph formula and avoid using words like 'nevertheless' and 'furthermore.'"

Instead, students should think of how they want to introduce themselves to admissions officers. "The voice should be familiar," Robinson says.

## Tell a good story

Many students Robin-

son works with worry that their lives aren't interesting enough to write about. "They think they need to impress the reader by having a topic that's about something like how they climbed Mount Whitney," she says. "But the best essays I've read have been about mundane topics. Students really do have a lot to talk about."

For example, have you been babysitting since you were in middle school? Are you a huge music fan? Those are perfectly good topics to write about in your essay. "I tell

students to just think about what they do on a Saturday," Robinson explains.

## Show some personality

A common mistake students make is writing essays that are too general and devoid of any personality. "Being boring is like death to an effective college essay," says Robinson. "Pick one quality or descriptor that you want to highlight in your essay. Then your essay will have a sharp focus because you are showcasing that quality."

## Highlight a conflict

We don't mean you have to write about a family tragedy or a catastrophic event in your life. "One trick is to find something that has happened to you and think about how it included a problem you had to solve," says Robinson. The problem could be as simple as you overcoming a personal phobia, like a fear of heights, or getting a driver's license after lots of practice. "I had one student who wrote about how he dealt with his excessive body hair," she recalls. "It was a killer essay."

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# DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE PATRIOTS' OFFENSE SUCKS AGAINST THE RAVENS

OPINION

**MATT BURKE**  
@burke\_metro

Monday night's game against Baltimore will be the first real test for the Patriots since losing Rob Gronkowski for the season.

While the "next man up" talk is swell, and while everyone around here is suddenly convinced that Malcolm Mitchell is Randy Moss — make no mistake, the Patriots' offense is going to be a shell of its 100 percent self with Gronk sidelined.

It is somewhat fitting that the Ravens are the first true test post-Gronk, as one of the more devastating losses in the Bill Belichick — Tom Brady era came at Gillette Stadium in the 2012 AFC Championship game, and a huge reason why the Pats lost that playoff game at home (unfathomable around these parts) to the Ravens was because Gronkowski was sidelined with a broken arm.

The Patriots were held to just 13 points in a convincing 28-13 loss



With so many injured Pats, Brady could lean heavily on Malcolm Mitchell. GETTY IMAGES

that day, and Brady finished with a horrid 62.3 passer rating. He threw the ball a whopping 54 times but completed just 29 of his passes. He was picked off twice.

Of course, a lot has changed for both teams since then. Ray Lewis and Ed Reed are retired, and while the Baltimore defense is good — it isn't a great unit like that 2012 Super Bowl winning bunch.

Meanwhile, Brady has an entirely different cast of receivers. In that loss, Wes Welker caught eight balls, the scumbag who's sitting in a cell in the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Shirley right now caught nine balls, Brandon Lloyd caught seven balls, Shane Vereen caught two, Deion Branch caught two and Danny Woodhead caught one.

With apologies to Jeff Fisher, none of those players are currently on the Patriots' roster.

It's up for debate whether or not you think the current crop of Patriots pass catchers are better than that group. Julian Edelman, Martellus Bennett, Mitchell, Chris Hogan, Dion Lewis and James White are all likely to be targeted by Brady this Monday night. (I'll take the 2012 group, BTW.)

Edelman had his best game of the season last week against the Rams, catching eight balls for 101 yards. Personally, I don't think Edelman's looked right all season — but the statistics call bull poop on my eyeballs. He's caught 72 balls for 718 yards this season and is on pace for his first

100-catch, 1,000-yard season since 2013. He is trending in the right direction, at least.

Danny Amendola, who had his breakout game against the Ravens in the playoffs two years ago, will likely miss the rest of the regular season with a high ankle sprain. Even if Amendola is healthy for the playoffs, there hasn't been much this season to suggest that he's capable of having a monster receiving day anymore. The 31-year-old hasn't caught more than three balls in a game since Jimmy Garoppolo was starting for the Pats and he hasn't had even a 50-yard receiving day all year.

So far so good for Mitchell, as he has 17 catches for 222 yards and three touchdowns

in the past three weeks. But it's important to remember the small sample size here, and the fact that he was playing against the 49ers, Jets and Rams (combined record: 8-28).

Bennett didn't exactly eat those teams alive as the No. 1 tight end in the Pats' offense. After a 102-yard receiving day against the Seahawks in Week 10, Bennett has just six catches for 40 yards and zero touchdowns. He's trending in the wrong direction.

All told, I don't think things are going to be easy offensively for Brady and the Pats Monday night, or at any point moving forward.

We will be reminded often down the stretch and in the playoffs, just how much Gronk means to this team.

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# 3 Things to watch for when Patriots, Ravens meet on 'Monday Night Football'

In perhaps their biggest test of the season, New England's offense will be tested in prime time.

JAMES TOSCANO  
@Jimmy\_Toscano  
sports@metro.us

Take a look around the AFC and you might be disappointed in the level of play this season.

That isn't to say every team is underperforming. Of course, there are the Patriots who many believe will go to the Super Bowl. There are also the Chiefs, Raiders, and Broncos, which makes the AFC West easily the toughest division in the AFC.

But there's a team in the AFC North that has gone a bit under the radar this year but finds itself fighting with the Pittsburgh Steelers for a division title and playoff berth: the Baltimore Ravens.

The Ravens invade Foxboro for a Monday night tilt against the Patriots that pits the two rivals against each other with plenty on the line.

That's right. Rivals.

It's hard to call the Broncos a rival now that Peyton Manning is gone. You can use the same logic for the Colts — and also the fact that they just aren't very good. The Jets? Ha! They're only rivaling the Giants — the Little Giants, that is.

But the Ravens check off all the boxes. They

have an outspoken head coach in John Harbaugh, they have outspoken players like Terrell Suggs and Steve Smith, they see the Patriots often enough, and they're competitive with them. Though the Brady-led Patriots are 5-1 in the regular season against the Ravens, they're 2-2 in the playoffs.

But now there's even more. Nobody will forget the Patriots tricking the Ravens in the 2014 AFC divisional playoff game with their ineligible formations, prompting Brady to tell the irked Ravens after the game to "read the rule book and figure it out."

Obviously, that didn't sit well with Harbaugh. The word is the Ravens then tipped off the Colts about the Patriots alleged

deflating of footballs.

The rest is history.

And it brings us to tonight, with the Patriots and Ravens unable to call this one just another game.

## 1 MVP up for grabs

It pains a lot of the national media and those in NFL offices, but with a win tonight, Tom Brady will become the frontrunner for the NFL's MVP Award, this with four less games under his belt. It won't be easy against the league's top defense. The Ravens come into the game ranked first in total defense, allowing just 296.1 yards per game. Much of that is due to their stingy rushing defense, as they



Tom Brady will be tested by the Ravens defense Monday. | GETTY IMAGES

only allow 73.8 yards on the ground. They are tied for the second-most interceptions in the NFL with 14, but Brady has only thrown one this year. Something has to give. Ravens defensive coordinator, Dean Pees, formerly that of the New England Patriots, makes things difficult for Brady.

## 2 Is Joe Flacco Elite?

That question took a big hit a couple weeks ago when former Ravens linebacker and loud mouth Ray Lewis questioned Flacco's passion for the game. We won't get into that, but we can get into the fact he's got enough talent around

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end Dennis Pitta found the end zone twice last week. All that said, Flacco's quarterback rating this season is just 84.1, ranking him 26th among qualified QBs.

### 3 Finish strong

There are some out there who feel that clinching the playoffs is enough and seeding doesn't matter for the Patriots. They'd sit Brady and players like Martellus Bennett to make sure they were good for the playoffs. But as we saw last season, seeding — and homefield advantage — is huge. The Patriots lost four of their last six games last season and because of that travelled to Denver for the AFC Championship Game and lost. Now that the Raiders lost, the Patriots control their own destiny. The Patriots have the best record in the NFL in December since 2001, at 55-10, and they should make a point to improve on that with their available players going forward.

him to at least appear elite. Mike Wallace is well on his way to his first 1,000-yard season since 2011, and everybody knows what Steve Smith Sr. is capable of with his hands and also his trash talk. Ravens tight

## NFL Week 14 roundup: Titans upset Broncos

Week 14 boasted some very interesting early results. Here's a look at some of the action:

### Miami 26, Arizona 23

Kenny Stills caught a heave from backup Matt Moore with 37 seconds left and dove to the Cardinals' (5-7-1) 1-yard line to set up a 21-yard Andrew Franks field goal to win the game.

### Washington 27, Philadelphia 22

After the Eagles (5-8) successfully made a 41-yard field goal with Trey Burton acting as an emergency third string long snapper, Chris Thompson scored on a 25-yard run to put Washington (7-5-1) up five with 1:53 remaining.

### Minnesota 25, Jacksonville 16

The Vikings offense and Sam Bradford had its best game in months and it led to the second win in their last eight games.

### Tennessee 13, Denver 10

The Broncos (8-5) endangered their playoff chances by losing for the third time in five weeks in Tennessee. The Titans (7-6) meanwhile, saw both the Houston-Indianapolis result and this game go in their favor.

### Pittsburgh 27, Buffalo 20

The Steelers (8-5) won their fourth in a row under snowy conditions in Buffalo. Le'Veon Bell frolicked to 236 rushing yards, 62 receiving yards and three touchdowns



The Titans could be quite a force to be reckoned with in the playoffs. GETTY IMAGES

in Mike Tomlin's 100th career victory.

### Carolina 28, San Diego 16

The Panthers (5-8) built a 26-7 lead, but it suddenly looked in jeopardy when, after it had been narrowed to 26-16, rookie Trevon Reed intercepted Cam Newton at the goal line. On the following drive, Philip Rivers was sacked in the end zone and what looked like a turning point was gone.

### Cincinnati 23, Cleveland 10

Robert Griffin III took the field for the first time

since Week 1, but nothing else changed in Cleveland.

### Detroit 20, Chicago 17

Matthew Stafford threw a pick-six to Cre'von LeBlanc to see the Bears (3-10) take a 17-13 lead in the fourth quarter, but made up for it with a rambling 7-yard touchdown scramble with 3:20 remaining.

### Houston 22, Indianapolis 17

The Colts (6-7) were stopped when attempting a screen on fourth down with 1:20 remaining. LKE MILLER

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### CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO

G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

Docket No. SU16P2645GD

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE TRIAL COURT

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

In the matter of: John T Mason

Of: Boston, MA

RESPONDENT

Alleged Incapacitated Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that John T Mason is in need of a Guardian and requesting that DMH c/o Office of General Counsel of Westborough, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street, Boston MA, 02114

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 01/05/2017. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Joan P Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 28, 2016

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East Boston, MA 02128.

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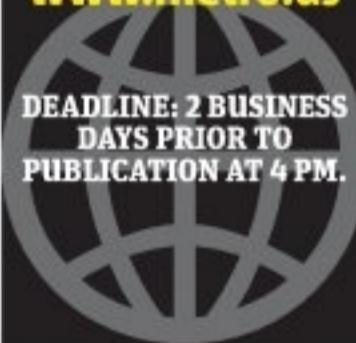


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## Professional

**HRMS Business Process Analysts, Job Code: HBPA16:**  
Evaluate & make recommendations to improve Sun Life's Global HRMS including evaluating business processes. Requires: Master's in Labor & HR, HR or Bus. Management or a closely related field & 1 year exp providing consulting & process support on HR processes & info systems in a Workday HRMS system environment for a multi-national company, or alternately, Bachelor's in Labor & HR, HR, Bus. Mgmt or a closely related field & min 5 yrs of same experience as above. Also, requires: demonstrated experience 1) performing bus. analysis, making recommendations & providing related configuration support for Workday HRIS release 20 or later, for all HR standard activities, includ exp w/ Talent, Compensation & Time & Attendance processes; & 2) gathering data for input into Workday's XML-based enterprise integration builder (EIB). Mail resumes to Sun Life Financial (U.S.) Services Co., Inc., ATTN: Deborah Bryn, HR, SC3025, 1 Sun Life Executive Pk., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481. REFER to Job Code. No calls.

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**Across**

- Serve the purpose
- Dragged into court
- Long shoal
- Ben on "Bonanza"
- Suits to --
- Buddhist monk
- Brontosaurus snack
- Price increase
- Type of exam
- Leaves the dock (2 wds.)
- Posh
- Attorney's deg.
- Wernher von - of rockets
- Beset
- Mountaineer's aid
- Not with-it
- Kentucky settler
- FDR org.
- Make muddy
- Billowing garment
- Mr. Zatopek
- Tentacle
- Lowed
- "I could -- unfold ..." (Hamlet)
- Nero or Napoleon
- Threat ender (2 wds.)
- Large antelope
- Cen. fractions
- Isak's real name
- Ancestor
- Charles Lamb

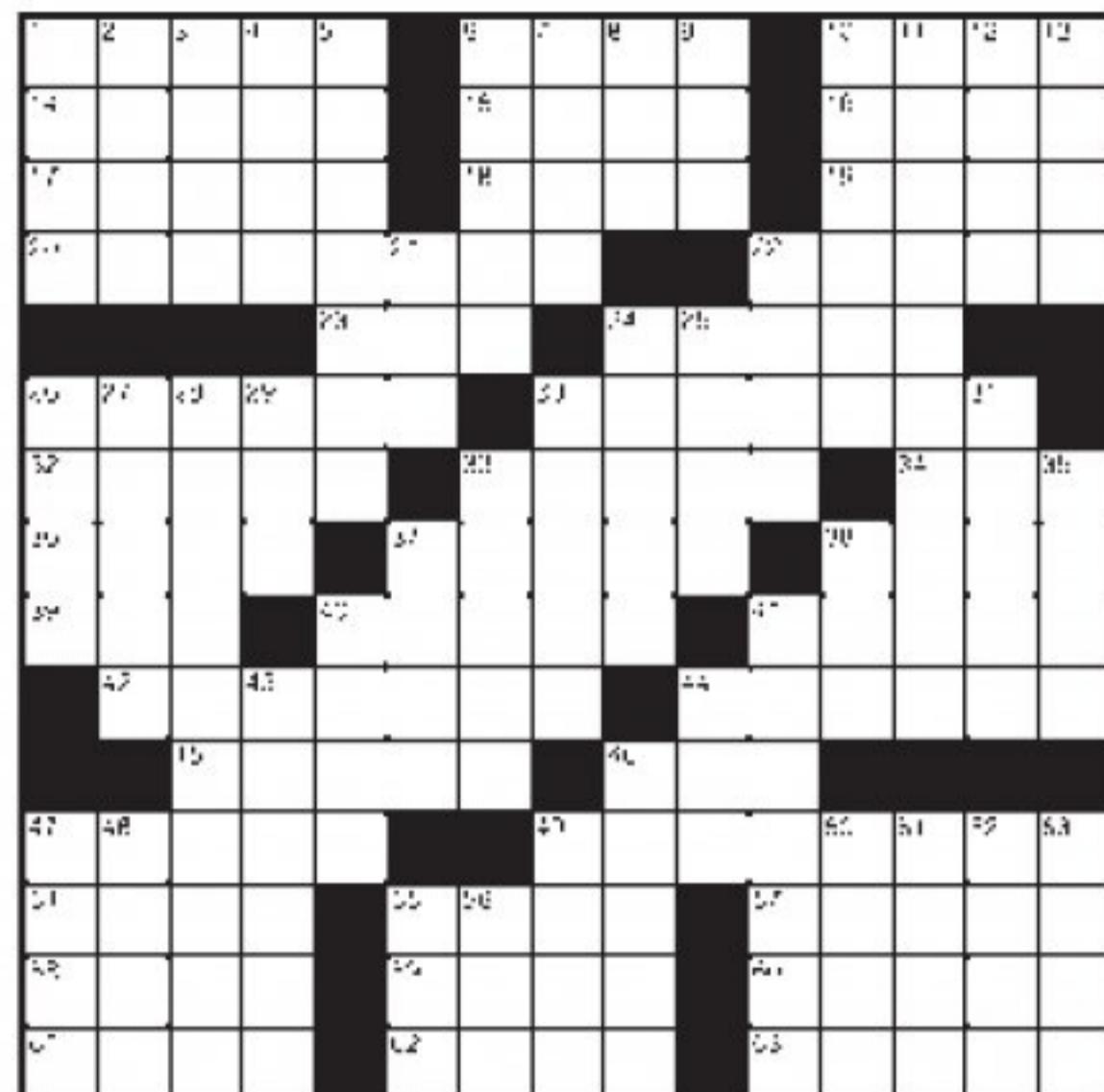
## metro.us /games

### Down

- Innsbruck locale
- Field mouse
- I smell --!
- Rural stopovers
- Blurt out, say (2 wds.)
- Bwana, in India

7 Gas or tel.  
 8 Cartoon shriek  
 9 Fiddle-de--  
 10 Decelerate (2 wds.)  
 11 Telepathic, e.g.  
 12 "-- Old Cowhand"  
 13 It may be sweet  
 21 Every  
 22 No different  
 24 Sweeping  
 25 Foul-smelling  
 26 Mystique  
 27 Night racket  
 28 Dancing with light  
 29 Catch cold  
 30 Lovebird  
 31 Simon and Diamond  
 33 Vampire's craving  
 35 Helm position  
 37 Field crop  
 38 Riviera summer  
 40 Spiteful  
 41 Whodunit poison  
 43 Implores  
 44 Boston Bruin great  
 46 Egg parts  
 47 Sushi ingredient  
 48 Jai --  
 49 Type style  
 50 Wild country  
 51 Della Street's penner  
 52 Between ports  
 53 Doctor's advice  
 55 Road "Beetles"  
 56 Grandson, maybe

## metro.us/crossword



## metro.us/sudoku

easy

4			9					8	
	3					9	4	1	
		9	3			5			
9		1	6	4					
	5						6		
			7	9	3			2	
		6			2	1			
7	8	4					3		
	1			7			4		

hard

1	5	3	7						
	4		1					7	
9				3		1			
8				6	7		1	5	
	2	6		4	5				3
			9		1			6	
5				2		3			
			5	9	4	1			

## metro.us/horoscopes



**Aries** Personal gains can be made if you avoid getting involved in joint ventures. You need complete control if you want to reach your expectations.



**Taurus** If you put in a full-fledged effort, you will avoid criticism. It's important to honor your word and to live within your means. Don't overspend.



**Gemini** There's a lot to do, but you must also take time to relax. Do your best to spruce up your appearance and plan your itinerary for the festive season.



**Cancer** Use your imagination when dealing with your peers or relatives. When in doubt, ask questions and look for practical, cost-efficient alternatives.



**Leo** Reach out to someone from your past. Consider the changes you want to make and start the ball rolling. Take an energetic approach where finances are concerned.



**Virgo** Emotional situations will escalate if someone isn't being honest. Take a hard look at anything that seems dubious. Offer suggestions, but don't interfere.



**Libra** Keep an open mind when dealing with your home and family. Consider ways that you can improve your health, emotional well-being and physical appearance.



**Scorpio** Evaluate your personal and business partnerships and consider what you can do to make them more rewarding and fruitful. The effort you put in will be appreciated.



**Sagittarius** Take the initiative. Opportunity is waiting for you to grab hold and move forward. Professional gains are apparent, and incentives will be made available.



**Capricorn** Don't feel pressured to make a snap decision. Exercise your right to find a better solution. Someone will use false information to entice you.



**Aquarius** It's a good day to make physical or environmental improvements. Wherever you want to put your energy, the results will turn out well. Romance is in the stars.



**Pisces** Don't lose sight of your goal due to an emotional situation. Get to the bottom of whatever is causing you concern so you can move forward. **EUGENIA LAST**

### Yesterday's answers

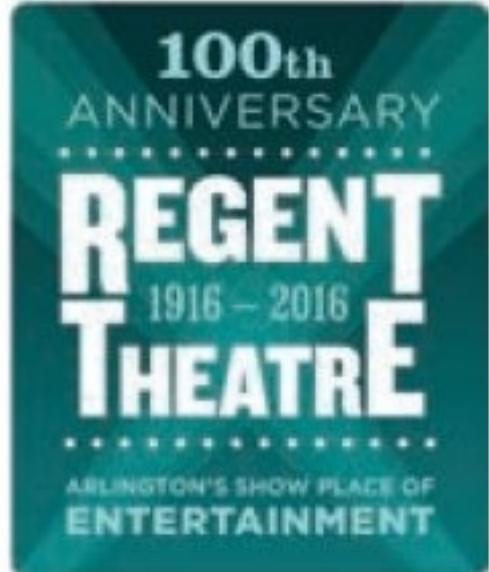
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A	R	Y	O	O	C	A	L	I		
H	I	N	G	L	E		S	M		
C	A	S	I	T	A	D	G	M	N	S
O	M	E	L	E	T	H	E	S		
M	O	D	I	C	O	D	I	L	D	Y
I	C	F	R	A	S	S	V	A	T	
C	O	N	V	I	V	A	O	N	E	
A	M	P	Y	L	X	A	O	I	A	
C	O	T	A	S	E	T	H	E	O	
O	S	E	R	A	S	A	L	D		
P	S	B	E	L	A	I	T	A		
I	H	I	L	L	I	N	Z	H	I	
S	Y	R	S	A	B	E	F	M	C	E

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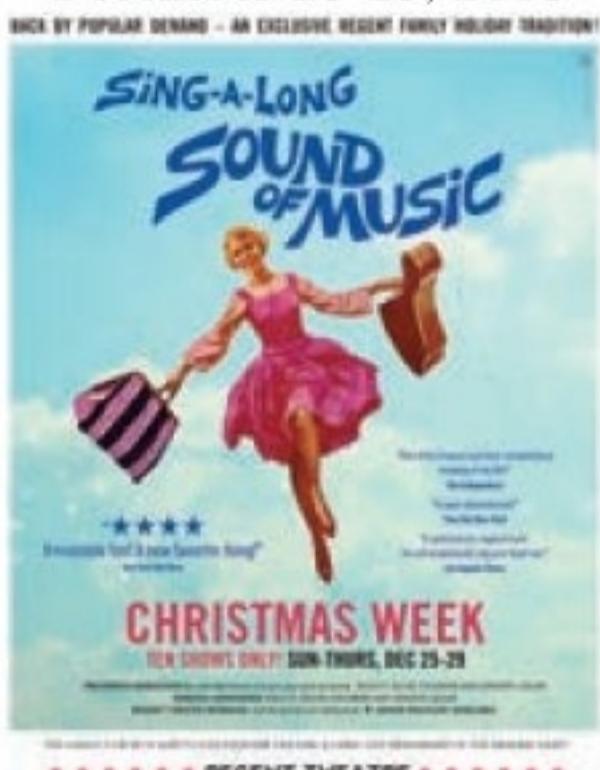
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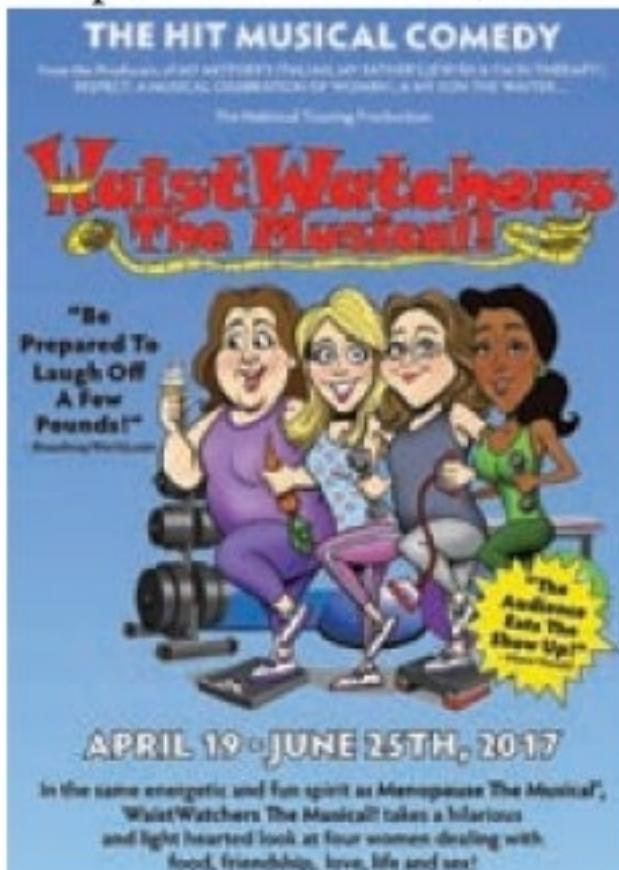
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